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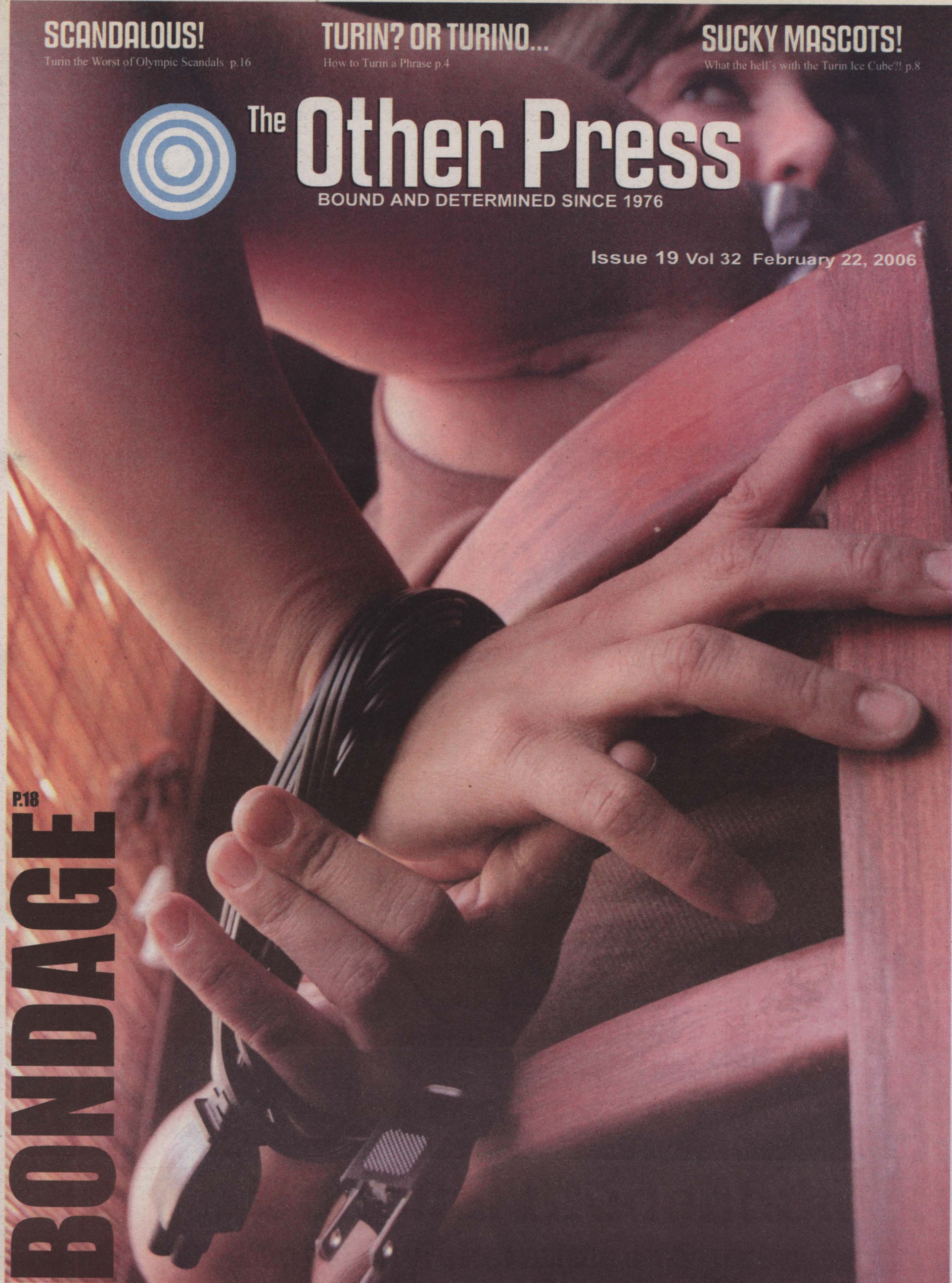
# Other Press

BOUND AND DETERMINED SINCE 1976

Issue 19 Vol 32 February 22, 2006

P.18

# BONDAGE





The Other Press  
Published since 1976

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February 22, 2006



## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The weekly deadline for submissions is  
Wednesday for publication the following  
Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sec-  
tions, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend  
news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be  
accepted until Saturday noon and can be sub-  
mitted to the editor at: othereditor@yahoo.ca

All other submissions should be forward-  
ed to the appropriate section editor. Please  
include your name, phone number/email  
address, and word count, and submit via  
email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the  
attention of the appropriate editor.

The Other Press is run by a collective,  
which means all decisions are reached via a  
democratic voting process. Membership in  
the voting collective is open to any person  
who has contributed to at least two of three  
consecutive issues. Those interested in join-  
ing the Other Press collective should contact  
the editor at othereditor@yahoo.ca

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## Congratulations to Brian McLennon and Luke Simcoe, this weeks winners of the prestigious OP Bowling Pulitzer.

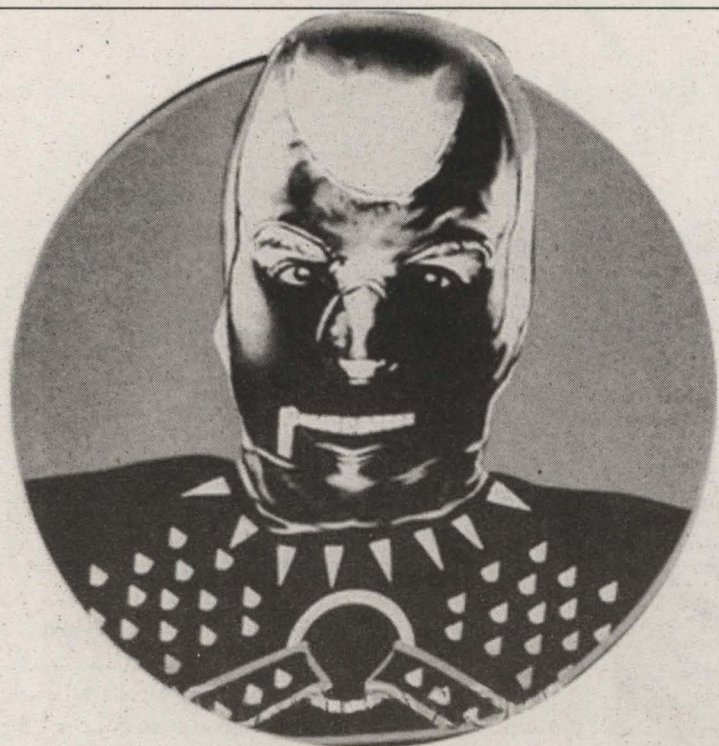
Photo by JJ McCullough

\*In the February 8th issue of  
the OP, the article "Anti-  
Muslim Cartoons Spark  
Worldwide Protests" was  
written by News Editor Nicole  
Burton, not Sarah Colgrove.

**THE OP MUSIC CHARTS** — Otherwise known as...  
What we listened to during the creation of this issue:

The Ricky Gervais Podcast—Episodes 11 & 12  
Ben Kwell—Sha Sha  
Death Cab For Cutie—Transatlanticism  
Mountain Goats—The Sunset Tree  
Beck—Guero





Writing always causes me mental anguish. It's a bit like Hunter S. Thompson said: "I've always considered [professional] writing the most hateful kind of work. I suspect it's a bit like fucking, which is only fun for amateurs. Old whores don't do much giggling."

I actually liken writing more to natural childbirth. It oscillates between brief moments of absolute beauty and long spans where you want to tear a phone book in half before grabbing the closest person and bludgeoning them in order to ransom their aorta for six Dos Equis and a bagful of epidural anesthetic.

Today, however, I get to add a physical aspect to the pain writing causes me. It turns out I have some forearm / wrist inflammation called de Quervain's Syndrome, and let me tell you, it hurts like H.E. double hockey sticks. My arm feels like I imagine the Tin Man felt when he needed oil in the *Wizard of Oz*, except I don't need oil, I need painkillers.

Besides the brief passage you're currently reading, the only other writing I've done in the past 48

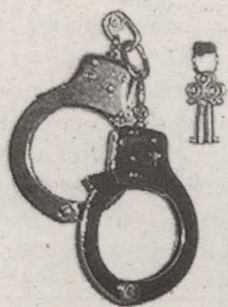
hours was the following email, which was summarily sent for immediate posting on Craig's List:

**WANTED:** One curvaceous and scantily clad vixen to act as a mentor and scribe for wounded writer/editor. Must type at least 75 words per minute and possess the ability to open cold cervezas, fine wines, and other distilled spirits. Preference will be given to applicants with Kung fu grip and fantastic taste in music. Serious, yet light-hearted, inquiries only.

So, until my dream transcriber appears like an apparition from the ether, I'm going to chill out, attempt to crack a quality bottle of red wine using only my left hand, wits, and teeth, and wish you all a healthy and prosperous last week of February. Enjoy this week's Other Press. We went through great pains to bring it to you.

—Colin Miley, Managing Editor

## PAIN DUNGEON OF CONTENTS



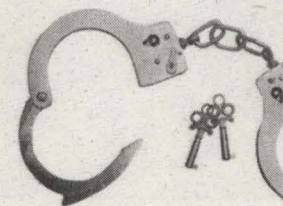
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**Opinions 7**



**A&E 10**



**WTF 23**



**Features 16**



**Sports 21**



## US Steps up Attacks on Iran

### International campaign asks, "Is this the next Iraq?"

Nicole Burton, News Editor

In a push led by the United States, world powers, including Britain, France, and international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) are stepping up attacks against Iran as a "threat to stability in the Middle East."

Since November, Iran has held talks with France, Germany, and Britain over the use of nuclear facilities to enrich uranium. The government of Iran has not violated any international laws.

In a statement made last week, US Secretary of State

Condoleeza Rice said, "The Iranians need to live up to their international obligations," threatening the Middle Eastern country with sanctions through the UN Security Council.

Only days later, French Foreign Minister, Phillipe Douste-Blazy, said that France would now be putting their foot down as well.

"No civilian nuclear program can explain the Iranian nuclear program. So it is a clandestine Iranian military

nuclear program.

"The international community has sent a very firm message by saying to the Iranians: 'Come back to reason. Suspend all nuclear activity and the enrichment of uranium and the conversion of uranium.'

"They are not listening to us."

But critics of this battle over popular opinion are saying there's no threat at all—at least no more than there is a threat of US-manufactured nuclear weapons, which are proven to exist.

A new campaign launched in the United States has released a petition demanding that the US not attack Iran, relating the situation closely to the propaganda drive against Iraq shortly before the invasion in 2003.

"The media is filled with reports of an alleged nuclear threat posed by Iran and the assumed need for the US to take military action," the petition reads. "These reports recall the 'Weapons of Mass Destruction' stories issued in the months leading up to the war on Iraq."

British journalist John Pilger writes, "Bush and Blair are gearing up for it, and they are preparing us, too—just as they did before attacking Iraq. But where is the threat?"

"Listen to Blair in the House of Commons: It's important we send a signal of strength against a regime that has 'forsaken diplomacy' and is 'exporting terrorism' and 'flouting its international obligations'. Coming from one who has exported terrorism to Iran's neighbor, scandalously reneged on Britain's most sacred international obligations, and forsaken diplomacy for brute force, these are Alice-through-the-looking-glass words."

US White House advisors have also announced that Bush plans to push a bill through Congress that would authorize an extra \$75 million for "democracy building" in Iran, a combined effort of US-controlled radio and TV programming aimed at influencing Iranian public opinion.

"The Iranians just need to know that the free world is working together to send a very clear message," said US President Bush. "Don't develop a nuclear weapon."



## How to "Turin" a Phrase

JJ McCullough, Investigative Reporter



This week, Denise Chinn asks, "Is it Turin or Torino?"

Denise, of course, is referring to the name of the host city of the 2006 Winter Olympics. Different sources use different names, leading to much confusion over which is the "correct" one. Basically, whether you use Turin or Torino depends on how much of a linguistic purist you want to be.

Many cities around the world offer two different spellings for their city names, one in English and one in the native tongue. Rome, for example is called "Roma" in Italian, India's Bombay goes by "Mumbai" in Hindi, and Quebec City is known as "Ville de Québec" in French. Sometimes, this even applies to entire countries. For example the Japanese call Japan "Nihon," while the Germans call their country "Deutschland." In other words, whether you call it Turin or Torino depends on whether or not you want to be a good internationalist, and show off your knowledge of Italian.

The name debate has polarized many media outlets across the continent, with TV stations like NBC and CBC going with "Torino," while other voices like the *Globe and Mail* and the *New York Times* clinging to "Turin." Most official Olympics merchandise can be bought with either name.

It would be nice, however, if the people who go around calling it Torino could at least be consistent. After all, when's the last time you heard someone mention the "Shroud of Torino?"

Got a question that needs investigating? Send it to wart\_mamu@yahoo.com



## Presidential Election Coincides with the Second Anniversary of Haiti's Invasion

Nicole Burton, News Editor

With waves of people running through the streets, Haiti has again been in the news leading up to and following the national elections for the country's new president.

Haiti has seen massive protests for democracy and self-determination since 2004, when the United States, Canada, and France orchestrated a coup in the small Caribbean nation, overthrowing the country's first democratically elected president, Jean Bertrand Aristide. Haiti is now controlled by the UN occupation force "The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)," which includes nearly 7000 military personnel.

The declared winner for Haiti's presidency is now René Préval, who received a recorded 51 percent of the vote. The runner up, Leslie Manigat, received around 11 percent. Of the 2.2 million votes cast, few came from Haiti's poorest neighborhoods, where no voting stations were set up, "for security reasons."

February marks the month that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected president of Haiti, was overthrown and flown off the island and into exile. The

US/Canada/France coup and the UN occupation, both done in cooperation with leaders of the former Duvalier dictatorship in an effort to "return stability to the country," led immediately to the closing of the Ministry of Literacy, an elimination of the minimum wage for Haiti's workers, and a campaign of political persecution against the Aristide's Lavalas party.

For the last two years, Haitians and their supporters around the world have been asking, "stability for whom?"

Just before the elections began in early February, an investigation was launched by Haitian human rights organizations into the UN forces' occupation and treatment of Haitian civilians, particularly in the slums of Cite Soleil, where troops have a brutal history of shooting unarmed civilians.

The treatment of Cite Soleil residents "is a crime against human dignity in Haiti," said Even Fanfal, a Haitian investigator working with Association of University Graduates Motivated for a Haiti with Rights (AUMOH). "[This is] a form of modern barbarity."

Cite Soleil was one neighborhood without a ballot box.

As for the election results, the strong support for Préval has been credited on many accounts to his former affiliation to Fanmi Lavalas. Préval has now distanced himself from his former affiliations in the Lavalas party, and has taken a position in support of the occupation forces in the country.

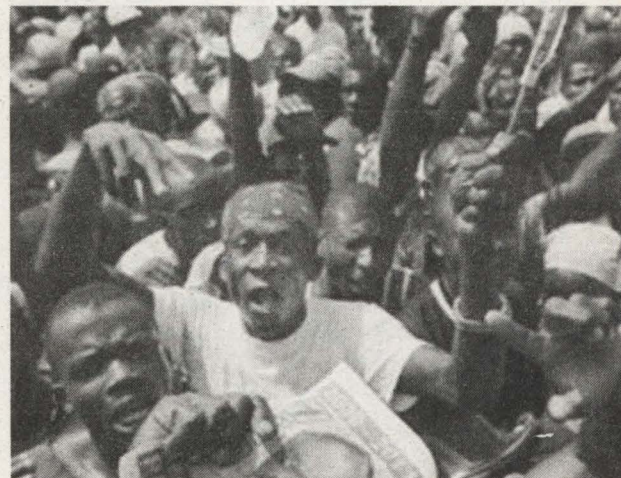
A former Haitian official under Aristide, Patrick Elie, said, "There's no chance that

these elections will do anything but deepen the crisis [in Haiti]." Elie is now a Haitian political activist touring colleges and universities across Canada to speak about the occupation of Haiti, and Canada's intervention in the country.

The small Caribbean nation of 8 million has a long history of struggle. At the turn of the 18th century, the people of Haiti rose up against French sugar plantation owners and were the first people to ever launch a successful slave revolt in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti became the first black republic of the world.

"I can tell the Canadian public that the Haitian people have a Ph.D. in resistance," said Elie.

"They're going to resist. They have a strong culture. And they're not going to become a toy or modeling clay in the hands of some Canadian politicians."



# Don't Miss Your Shot!

## Apply now!

Application for admission to UBC Summer Session 2006 (May – August) and Winter Session 2006 (September – April) closes

**February 28, 2006.**

[www.welcome.ubc.ca/apply.cfm](http://www.welcome.ubc.ca/apply.cfm)

[www.ubc.ca/okanagan/prospective/apply.cfm](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/prospective/apply.cfm)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
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## Black History Month Dateline

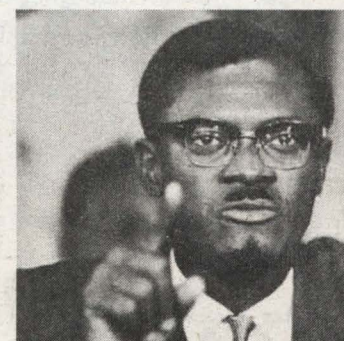
Black History Month Timeline

Nicole Burton, News Editor

February, 2002: The Belgian government "apologizes" to the Congolese people, admitting to "an irrefutable responsibility in the events that led to the death of Lumumba." Patrice Lumumba, an important African revolutionary leader and the first Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, was assassinated in 1961 after helping to lead the country to independence only a year before.

February 23, 1868: W.E.B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was born.

February 1, 1960: A group of black civil-rights movement activists sat down in a diner in Greensboro, North Carolina. The college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter, marking a major milestone and turning point for the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.



February 23, 1868  
W.E.B. Du Bois Born

February 1, 1960  
Woolworth Sit-in

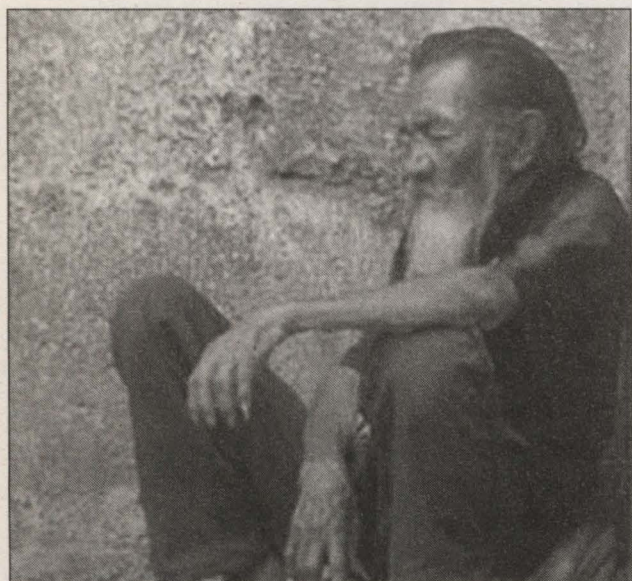
February, 2002  
Belgian Gov't "apologizes"



# Homeless in the City

## Why are so many living on the streets?

Nakie Pannu, OP Contributor



The last decade has seen homelessness become prominent in major cities and some rural areas across Canada.

As much as some right-wing pundits would like to attribute the problem exclusively to derelict, lazy, drug and alcohol-addicted vagabonds, this is not the case. The number of homeless people who do not abuse alcohol or drugs and don't have a mental illness is an astonishing 80 per cent. This then begs the question, "If a majority of homeless people are able bodied, why can't they sustain basic shelter?"

The federal government amplified the problem when they decided to almost obliterate transfers to the provinces for social programs. Provincial and municipal governments were expected to bear the burden of funding social programs, which obviously has overwhelmed both.

There has also been a cancellation of large governmental housing programs. In addition, several mental institutions have closed down due to a lack of funding, leaving many ex-mental patients to fend for themselves on the street. The cumulative increase in the cost of housing and decrease in accessibility of low-cost social housing has filtered more people on to the street.

Neglecting to maintain social safety has had dehumanizing consequences on people who are forced to live on the street. This past Wednesday, CKUT 90.3 aired its fourth annual Homelessness Marathon from Montreal, which was broadcast through the Internet to other non-commercial radio stations including Simon Fraser University's 90.1fm.

For many, this was the one opportunity for homeless people and their supporters to air grievances pertaining to issues involving the failing social safety nets, shelters, receiving medical care or finding work without a permanent address, dealing with police, and the artistic culture that many cling to as a means to attain salvation from their misery.

Some homeless people were a little apprehensive to talk, but homelessness advocates were successful in facilitating a discussion that articulated homeless people's concerns.

In spite of the prevalent health issues that homeless people face, they cannot easily access health care without

proper identification. The burden of living on the street day-to-day is not something that one can adapt to and remain sane. It's demoralizing. Quite a few people forced to live on the street gradually turn to drugs and alcohol to numb their circumstances.

The broadcast was enlightening, but at the same time it was shocking to discover the approach that is often taken by law enforcement officials towards homeless people. The sentiment against the police was vehemently articulated. One individual vociferously screeched, "Fuck off to all the cops and kill them all!"

Often, police subjugate homeless people to what can be described as their own fascist whims. Routinely homeless people are apprehended and searched for drugs. Sometimes they are beaten. There have been many circumstances where homeless youth have been arrested for being in a park when it is closed, jaywalking, panhandling, and "squeegee-ing" in restricted areas. They are also incarcerated for outstanding fines. Once released from prison, they are still expected to pay the balance of their fines.

Okay, fine, criminalize the poor to temporarily conceal the problem so the electorate won't realize how substantial the issue of homelessness is. Obviously, the government's agenda is not to sustain the well-being of the poor, but to preserve the equity of big business. Fewer social programs translate into less taxes and more money in the coffers of the rich. The elites are taken care of—but on the other lower tier, society is desecrated emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

It may sound naïve, but in the long run the social costs of not resolving the homelessness problem will eventually come full circle to the rich and middle class tiers of society. We already see it now. Many buildings in gentrified areas of downtown Vancouver have private security, as do as many businesses. This is done to prevent homeless people from congregating on or near the property, as well as a precaution against ex-mental patients who will potentially be hostile. And what about diseases? Unsanitary conditions usually breed an epidemic.

Decent low-cost housing is essential in order for these people's lives to stabilize.

# Missing Women Remembered

## February 14th brings hundreds to Vancouver's Downtown East Side

Nicole Burton, News Editor

Over 800 women, men, students and youth, elders, friends, and family members marched through the Downtown Eastside last week to pay tribute to women who have been murdered or gone missing from the neighbourhood.

The event began with more than 300 family members and close friends of victims gathering at the Carnegie Centre on Main and Hastings to discuss their pain and loss. Outside, supporters gathered to show their sympathy. Decorative pieces of artwork bearing missing women's names and faces dotted the crowd.

Speakers included family members of missing women and social workers from the neighbourhood who gave vivid descriptions of the lives of women in struggle in Canada's notoriously poorest neighborhood. One woman, who worked at a homeless shelter, noted more than 50 women she'd met over the years have now gone missing.

February 14 is now recognized in Vancouver as the day of remembrance for these victims of assault and violence. Women living in the Downtown East Side (DTES)—many plagued by poverty and driven into the sex trade or drug use—live with a huge risk in their lives. More than 90 women are marked as missing, alongside hundreds of cases of sexual and physical assault.

"I'm here today to remember my friends because they were so much more than prostitutes and junkies," one woman said from the microphone, with her eyes full of tears.

Many linked this year's Remembrance March—already in its 15th year—with the current court case of Robert Pickton, who is currently being tried in a New Westminster courtroom for the gruesome murders of 27 women, many of whom are from the DTES.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### February 23

Writer-in-Residence, Stephanie Bolster  
Reading at 12pm  
Room 1808, New Westminster Campus  
Presented by Douglas College Literature Alive

### February 24

Writer-in-Residence, Stephanie Bolster  
Reading at 11am  
Room B2030 David Lam Campus  
Presented by Douglas College Literature Alive

### Launch of *Pearls 2006*

Featuring readings by Writer-in-Residence Stephanie Bolster and Creative Writing students  
7:30pm, Douglas Room, New Westminster Campus  
Presented by Douglas College Literature Alive

### A Night of Music Art & Resistance

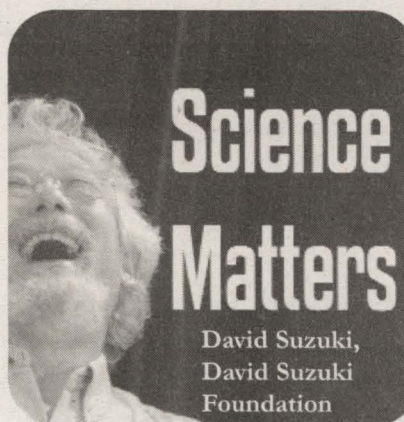
Legal Defense Fundraiser For Mayuk and Beverly Manuel and the Skwel'w'elt Protection Centre Defenders  
Video In Studios (1965 Main Street, Vancouver)  
Doors at 7:30pm | Show at 8pm  
Organized by Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO)  
Supported & Endorsed by: Skwel'w'elt Protection Center Defenders, Redwire Native Youth Media  
For more information:  
info@mawovancouver.org | www.mawovancouver.org | 604.322.1764

### February 26

March & Rally to mark the 2nd anniversary of the Canada/France/US invasion of Haiti  
US/UK Out of Iraq!  
Canada Out of Afghanistan!  
Canada/France/US Out of Haiti!  
Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada!  
Self-Determination for All Oppressed Nations!  
US/EU Hands Off Iran!  
3pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery (corner of Robson and Howe, Vancouver)



## Two lost worlds give us hope



Two lost worlds were in the news last week. One was discovered halfway around the world, but the other is right here at home.

The first was a never-before examined patch of tropical rainforest deep in the heart of New Guinea. It's likely one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth and it shows how little we really know about life on this planet.

An international team of scientists recently returned from the Foja Mountains of New Guinea having discovered 40 extremely rare mammals (including the golden-mantled tree kangaroo which was thought to have been hunted to near extinction), four new butterfly species, a new bird species, 20 new frog species and many previously unknown plant species. Having never encountered humans, some of the creatures were so unafraid of people that researchers

could simply pick them up off the ground.

That places such as this still exist is cause for hope. With well over six billion people on the planet and an insatiable appetite for resources, pristine places are becoming increasingly rare and species are disappearing at an alarming rate. Yet scientists have only studied a small percentage of life on Earth. Researchers estimate that there are literally millions of species out there that we have never examined and have no clue what they do in an ecosystem. As Oxford entomologist George McGavin points out: in a tropical rainforest, every second or third insect you pick up is probably unknown to science.

The other lost world in the news last week is also a remote and incredibly diverse rainforest—but this one is in Canada. British Columbia's north and central coast, known as the Great Bear Rainforest, is unique, it is special and it contains creatures found nowhere else in the world. Most people know about the Kermode bears that live on this coast. They're a white version of the black bear, found only in this area. And their differences extend to more than just fur colour: researchers are finding that they behave differently too.

Wolves of the Great Bear are also different—smaller, more agile and specially adapted to forage for the bounty of sea life found along the shore. Then there are the salmon, which researchers have found are vital to the health of

the forests and many land-dwelling creatures. Hundreds of unique runs of salmon find their way back to the Great Bear every year to spawn; their bodies providing nourishment to the wildlife, the trees and the soil.

The Great Bear Rainforest made international news last week because the B.C. government, along with First Nations, environmental groups and the forest industry, have drafted a plan to protect a portion of it. That's good news for science and good news for the people who depend on the health of this ecosystem for their livelihoods.

The story is only partially complete, however, as discussions are still underway as to what kind of logging will take place in the parts of the Great Bear outside the protected areas. This is critical because unprotected areas make up more than 70 percent of the land base and contain the majority of salmon streams and much of the best wildlife habitat.

Scientists have only just begun to understand this magnificent region and all the life within it. The recent agreement, if combined with truly sustainable logging practices outside the protected areas, could keep this ecosystem functioning, allow economic activities such as tourism and logging to co-exist and give scientists a chance to understand more about Canada's own lost world.





# Olympic Mascots: A Proud Tradition of Sucking



**Right Hook**

JJ McCullough, OP Columnist

*Note: I have some special graphics for this article. It's important they are used or it will not make sense.*

If there is one Olympic tradition more reliable than gold medals, avant-garde opening ceremonies, and doping, it's the lengthy legacy of completely ridiculous mascots. While the art of mascot creation has never been particularly deep or complicated, time and time again successive Olympic host cities have continuously lowered the bar by churning out a series of uninspiring, pedestrian, and often outright bizarre characters.

Gliz, the Italian Ice Cube, is the latest offering as the mascot of the ongoing 2006 winter games in Turin, Italy. While admittedly adorable, it's difficult to see what particular relevance Mr. Gliz has to Italian culture, the Olympics, or hell, even sports in general. The jolly block-headed fellow looks like he would be better suited to shill gum for the Chiclets corporation than appear on commemorative toques and hockey sticks.

To his credit, Gliz is at least well drawn, which is certainly more than can be said for his predecessors—Phevos and Athena—the two, uh, things that were chosen as the mascots for the 2004 games in Athens, Greece. The brother and sister duo were supposedly based on ancient Greek dolls or something, but to the average viewer they look

more like a glimpse into the freakish future of the human race after the fifth nuclear war.

Six years before that, the world was subjected to the terror of the Snowlet quartet, official mascots of the 1998 Nagano Winter Games in Japan. For a country with so many talented cartoonists, you'd think the Japanese could have commissioned an expert to design a half-decent mascot. But no, apparently the Nagano officials decided to go with plan B and instead hired a chimpanzee with Down Syndrome to scrawl out four versions of the *Just for Laughs* goblins.

The idea that the person in charge of designing the Olympic mascot should actually be a semi-competent artist is apparently a novel idea in general. How else can we explain Magique, the blob-like snow imp of the 1990 Albertville games, or Cobi, the dog with both eyes on the same side of his head and mascot of Barcelona in 1992.

Lest we Canadians get too smug, it's worth pointing out that our country too has unleashed its share of artistic abortions upon the world.

Case in point, Amik, the mascot of the 1976 Montreal Olympics: a pathetic black blob without any eyes, mouth, or facial features. Officially, he was supposed to be a beaver, but he could have just as easily been Amik the Oil Spill and I'm sure no one would have been able to tell the difference.

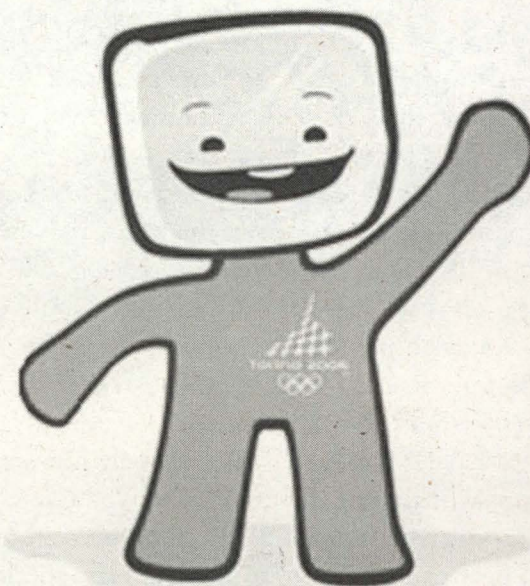
The fact that for the last few decades practically every mascot of the Olympic games has been either a bizarre piece of abstract art or a poorly drawn mythical creature really has to cast doubt on the purpose of having mascots in the first place. At one time, a mascot was supposed to be a cheerful, fun representation of something your country actually stood for, like an animal native to that area.

This still occasionally happens. Salt Lake City, for example, had three excellent mascots: a cartoon bear, jackrabbit, and coyote. They were well-drawn, cute and, most importantly, they actually had some significance to the rural area they represented.

In the majority of cases today, however, the Olympic Games are being held in large, urban, metropolitan cities which makes it increasingly difficult to come up with some physical representation to personify the community. I mean, sure, for 2010 we could probably have Edmund the Vancouver Squeegee Kid, but who would buy *that* stuffed animal. If present trends hold, we're more likely to see Paul the Yodeling Robot as our mascot rather than anything that actually relates to British Columbia.

Olympic mascots may have had a proud run at one time, but their glory days are long since over. Once we get into the realm of talking ice cubes and malformed Greek children, you know it's time to retire the practice altogether.

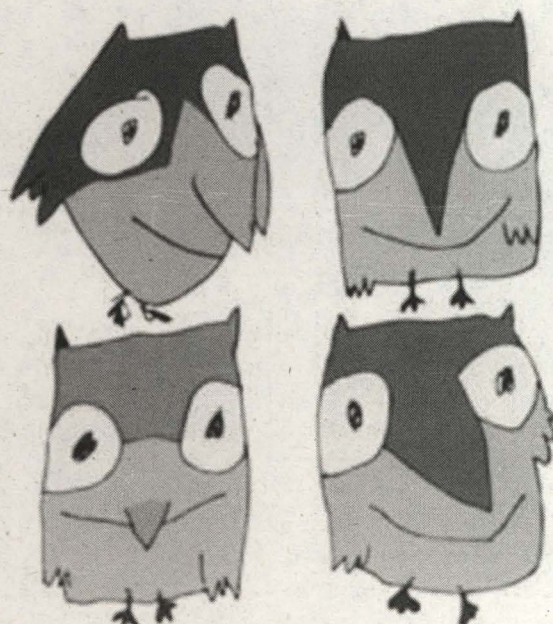
And yes, it was a slow news week.



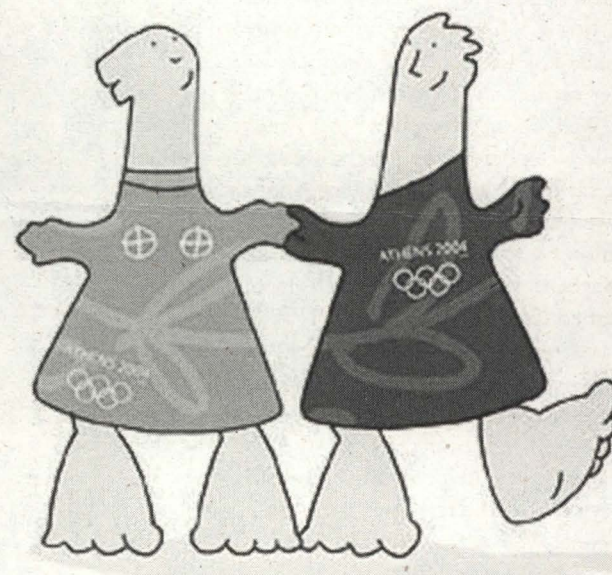
**2006**



**1992**



**1998**



**2004**



# B Sides: Sometimes It's Night and Day

## Thoughts from a Sunrise

Brandon Ferguson, Opinions Editor



They say that it's always darkest before dawn. Well, doesn't everything feel its bleakest before the light breaks through?

I sat through the darkness this morning; I sat out in the darkness this morning and felt nothing but brimming anticipation. Maybe in my collection of years, time, and tears, I've learned that the idea of "darkness" is subjective. Darkness is only the lack of lightness. In fact, anything that is the opposite of a positive is nothing more than a lack of positive. To change any self-perceived negativity, simply add a healthy dose of goodness, and stir.

They say that the toughest breath to take is the last one drawn. Well, doesn't everything that sounds profound turn out to be bleak before the insight breaks through?

I've sat through the difficulties of inhalation before; I've stayed up in the difficult times and felt nothing but admiration for another's determination to continue respiration. Maybe in my dejection from tears, time, and years, I've learned that the term "terminal" is subjective. Death is only a lack of life. In truth, death is nothing more than a celebration of life. It's not a bad thing if the life was worth living and the praise is wholeheartedly worth singing. To rectify any self-righteous thoughts of "woe is me," simply add a healthy dose of perspective, and stir.

They say that you're always taken for granted until you're gone. Well, isn't everything worth keeping also worth losing, at least until its time is right to break through?

I won't sit through the granted today; I will revel in what's given and embrace it for what it is, isn't, or might be—I will cherish it with all my conviction. Maybe in my reflection over time, years, and tears, I've learned that the conception of "gone" is subjective. To be gone is only to lack presence. In reality, each and every individual fortunate enough to have been a part of your life holds a special place in your heart. To contrast any self-loathing senti-

ments of loss, simply add a healthy dose of remembrance, and stir.

There are lessons to be drawn from each and every dawn, before the day is gone and the darkness comes. Every day offers new reasons for its existence, and in many ways, without being too clichéd, every day springs new hope eternal.

Step outside, check the rising red crest of dawn's sweet sunrise, watch the light creeping over mountains and catch the bright steeping of fountains of sunshine as they spill forth from the horizon, about to bathe us all in sweet memory. There is no feeling that can't be rescued from subjectivity.

### To anyone who's ever looked to the moon

Ever look up at the moon and wonder if you're sharing it with someone tonight? Up the street, across the river, down the way, or around the world—anyone? I have. I do.

Of all the means we have to communicate, I can't think of any more meaningful than the moon.

Explorers used the stars for navigation and found new worlds. Man aimed for the moon with the hope of finding himself. I look up and keep finding you. Not to embellish, but only to establish how the lunar pull affects me in funny ways—gravity and gravitation to you, it would seem, are both all-encompassing phenomena.

Tides come and go with minimal ovation, barely worthy of the newspaper's mention. Eclipses occur with frequent rarity, barely receiving more than a newscaster's annotation. Yet everyday, undaunted by our ignorance, there she rises to light our night sky; you only seem to notice the moon's absence when you're lost.

The moon makes you do loony things: shed your clothes, whisper in codes, dance, bark, howl, and sing. Some of my favourite spells have been magically cast by

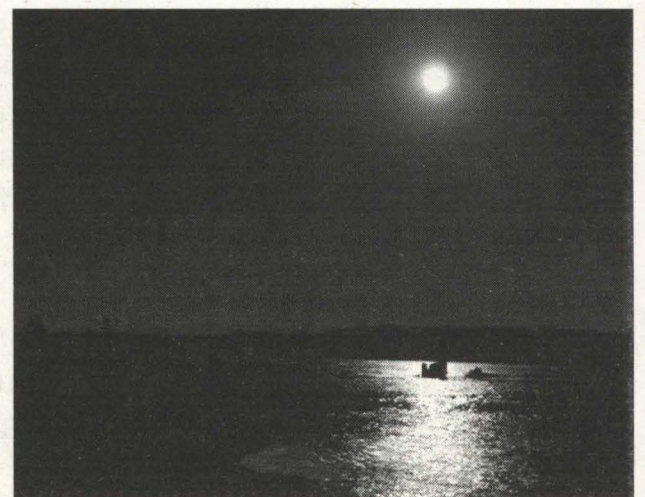
moonlight. Some of my darkest shadows have been tragically cast after midnight. Many strange and wonderful things have been conjured up under my favourite satellite's orbiting rings.

Shrouded by fast-moving clouds, tonight's moon is only half full. Half empty if you wish, but really, tsk tsk. On some nights, a crescent sliver will do; illuminating all that you'll need to see, and hiding all of which to which you hadn't a clue. On other nights, a full serving will do; leaving no room to hide from your seek, and lighting all witches which I blame for love's voodoo. Be it under minor glimmer or major radiance, I can stumble through the dark spots so long as my guide waits on the other side. And this is what half moons do. They challenge you to find out for yourself; they sneak you a peek, then dare you to find the full Monty; they urge you to the other side.

Sure, it's just a silly old moon. Not even full, so why accord it meaning at all?

Because if I simply waited for everything to be perfect and complete before thanking it, I'd waste away with nothing to say. That, I think, would be perfectly tragic.

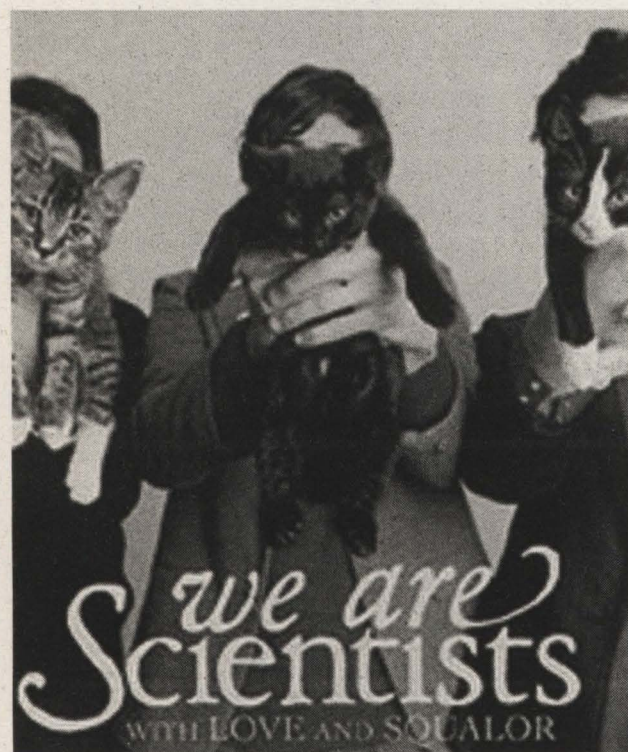
So, half moon, I'll thank you tonight. Thanks for pulling me up when my tide was down. Thanks for making me shine when my smile was eclipsed by a frown. And thanks again, half moon, for giving me another chance to look up and wonder about you. And you. Oh, and you too. Did I mention you?





## We Are Scientists: With Love and Squalor

Chelsea Mushaluk, OP Contributor



If there's anything I'm a sucker for, it's kittens. They're tiny and fuzzy and just so cute. On the cover, the back, and the booklet of their debut album, *With Love and Squalor*, We Are Scientists have supplied us with eight photos of the band holding kittens.

Once I was finished cooing over the initial cuteness of the album, I listened to it. And then it hit me: You can only hide behind the furry adorableness of kittens for so long. We Are Scientists. Even kittens won't disguise your cookie-cutter dance rock, and I'm on to you, We Are Scientists. I'm on to you.

Pop the CD into your computer and it gets all interac-

tive, with an album player, links, and the requisite band/kitten photo. It also has some nifty extras, like the video for "Nobody Move, Nobody Gets Hurt." The premise is that someone in a bear suit is chasing the band down the street. I'm sure they do other things, but I didn't finish watching it. The video was good, but singer Keith Murray's Morrissey imitations got the best of me. The format does make it easy to listen to the album while browsing the bonus features, though. And the website, cleverly named "The Sci-Cave," is pretty funny.

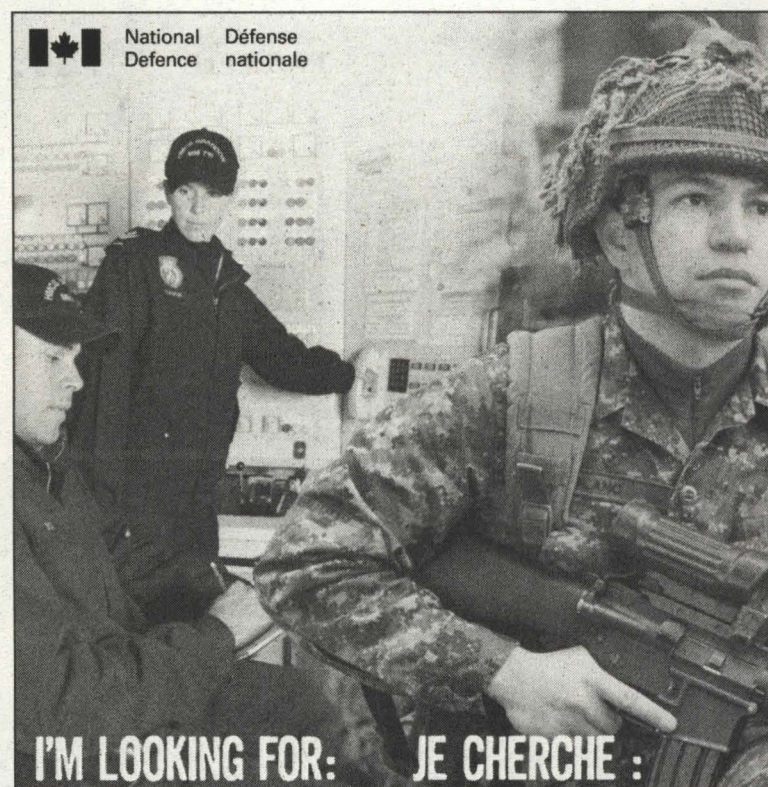
The album reminded me a lot of Hot Hot Heat. Granted, Murray's voice isn't nearly as annoying as Steve Bays' is, but both bands have definitely come from the same School of Indiepopdancerock. And both got an A in Skinny Ties 101.

The album did have some highlights, though. "Can't Lose" shows us what the band is capable of when they focus on guitar work. "Cash Cow" is fun and danceable, "Textbook" is another slower number, and "What's The Word" is totally different from anything else on *With Love and Squalor*, but that's what makes it good.

Sometimes We Are Scientists are pop punk, sometimes they're indie rock, sometimes they're indie pop, but they're never one genre consistently. More often than not a mix of genres works, but it sounds like they're still trying to figure it out. It is only their first album, so we can cut them some slack. But not too much, because *Make Up the Breakdown* and *You Could Have It So Much Better* have already been made. Funny websites, lyrics about drinking, and wearing

sweater vests will only get you so far. The question is how far will it get We Are Scientists?

Don't get me wrong, I love kittens, but there comes a time when you have to put them down and play some awesome music. That time is now, We Are Scientists. Carpe Diem!



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### Election to Education Council-

### A Notice to All Students--Elections March 15-16

Two students will be elected from those attending the David Lam Campus in Coquitlam and two from those attending the New Westminster Campus.

The term of office begins September 1, 2006, and ends August 31, 2007.

Nomination forms are available at the Registrar's Office and at the Student Union Office at both campuses. Please read the nomination papers carefully. Nominations must be received at the New Westminster Registrar's Office no later than 4pm on Friday, March 3, 2006.

To find out more about the Education Council, go to [www.douglas.bc.ca/edcouncil](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/edcouncil). For further information, please contact the Registrar, Trish Angus, at 604.527.5358.



I found it on  
teh interweb!



Iain W. Reeve, Lead Actor in *Tron 2*

### This week's website:

I Found it on the Interweb:

[www.retrojunk.com](http://www.retrojunk.com)

Iain W. Reeve, Proud Child of the 80s

Now entering the sixth year of this crazy new decade, we can confidently look back on the 90s with fond memories and quiet contemplation. It does not take long to realize, however, that the 90s was kind of a lame-duck decade.

The only truly fond memories I have of that cultural black hole of a decade are the cartoons and toys that dominated the final stage of my childhood. Shows like *Ninja Turtles*, *Power Rangers*, and *Captain Planet* engrained in me at an early age that violence was the best way to solve problems. Shows that were the last cry of the golden age of being young when advertising to children was in its naïve infancy. Yes, the 80s and 90s was the best time to be a kid. If only someone could help me relive those golden years. What's that you say?

Retro Junk is a website made up of people like me. They have an undying fascination with nostalgia for the decades where they spent their childhood. Unlike me, however, they have the go-getter attitude to actually do something about it. The website has several sections. A rather lame section features articles, written kind of poorly, commenting on pop culture. The relative writing ineptitude of the sites curators aside, the best feature of this site is an archive of 70s, 80s, and 90s TV show themes and commercials. They've chronicled everything from your favourite cartoons like *Transformers* and *G.I. Joe*, to the downright obscure, like *Hammerman*. Also included are popular dramas like *Knight Rider* and *The A-Team*.

The list of commercials is too numerous to explore. Plenty of toy, video game, junk food, and public service announcements are the centre of this site. From "I've fallen and I can't get up!" to "I'm not a chicken, you're a turkey."

So if you want to forget the Internet, the Bush administration, and Limp Bizkit, take a ride on the way back machine in the form of Retro Junk.

Send your submissions for "I Saw In On The Interweb" to [aeditor@gmail.com](mailto:aeditor@gmail.com)

## Smith & Reeve at the Movies: Final Destination 3

Iain W. Reeve and Steph Smith, OP Death Cheaters



In the fine tradition of such films as *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and *Final Destination 2*, *Final Destination 3* follows the wacky exploits of several teens as death tries to catch up with them after they evade near-certain doom. Their only hope for survival? The efforts of the girl whose creepy vision saved them from the killer roller-coaster in the first place.

### Reeve:

There are hundreds of forms of cheese produced all over the world. Most cheese is created by curdling milk from a variety of different animals, usually cows here in Canada, and then using bacteria to solidify it into the blocks commonly seen in the dairy section of your local grocer. The specific flavour of cheese can be altered by controlling everything from animal diet to the addition of spices or smoke. In rare cases, however, some cheese experts are able to utilize tools such as video cameras, poorly constructed sets, and low-budget computer animation to create a special brand of cheese that can only be experienced through the visual and auditory senses. The cast and crew of *Final Destination 3* are dairy farmers.

Trying to decide where to start criticizing this film is like trying to decide which aspect of being drawn and quartered you found most charming. The acting reminded me of the good old days in Ms. Williams' tenth-grade drama class. The worst part was that the more important the line, the more horrific the delivery.

I loved, in particular, this film's perpetuation of the trend in films of the horror/gross-out comedy/date movie/intellectually devoid tripe genres to try and have characters deliver speeches making "big" intellectual or philosophical statements. Some examples include the film's goth-kid stereotype delivering constant diatribes about physics, or the film's sensitive jock-guy stereotype attempting to make philosophical stabs at the meaning of life. While I'm sure the writer and actor can pat themselves on the back for injecting little bits of intelligence into their film, to anyone with half a brain, this stuff comes off as what it is: morons reciting lines about things they have absolutely no understanding of.

As with most horror, we have the usual checklist: Boobies? Check. Gruesome, horrific death? Check. Use of these things to try and cloak the film's lack of anything else? Check. Truth be told, they don't even do those things that well. The nudity is of the most unappealing characters in the film and is right at the beginning, before I was totally disillusioned and in need of something to keep me going. And the deaths, while sufficiently gory, caused a larger sense of rejoice than horror. It was the only way to get rid of the irritating array of high school stereotypes and half characters irritating me with every word uttered through their talentless little mouths.

This film left me wishing that I would have a vision of horrible death. That way, I and everyone else in the theatre would be

spared from seeing the remainder of the film. This is not good enough to be worthwhile horror, and not bad enough to be funny horror. It is caught in shit-movie limbo. The only neat part is playing "spot that lower mainland landmark." From Playland to Thunderbird Stadium to Queen Street right here in New West, *Final Destination 3* has it all. Wait, I am having a vision! Stay out of the theatre or something horrible will happen! Ahhhh!

### Smith:

I'll tell you all a secret. I watch bad horror films for fun. It's one of my favourite genres of film. So, I have, sadly, seen *Final Destination* and its sequel multiple times. I needed to complete the trifecta of crap by subjecting myself to...er, watching, *Final Destination 3*.

The premise is the same as the first two films: Death itself is out to get the kids. I know, I know, it's a very frightening and realistic idea. The deaths caused by this freaky spiritual realignment are just ridiculous. One kid dies when an out of control semi-truck crashed into the cars behind him at the drive-thru window. The force causes the engine to fly out of the truck and into the kid's head. Another girl dies when a series of absolutely unreal events cause a forklift to drive itself across a Home Build-It (think generic Home Depot), knocking a million things over. The girl in question falls against a board of wood that just happens to have a loaded nail gun positioned behind it. The nail gun goes off like a machine gun and she is impaled through the face by large, unrealistic nails.

I'll admit to being completely morbid and laughing hysterically at each and every death. I have no soul, and they *were* funny. The best parts of the film were the comments we were making in the theatre. At one point, toward the end, the heroine of the film (and one of the few survivors) is on a train. She gets a strange feeling and starts looking nervously around the train. She then notices an ad for the same restaurant where the drive-thru kid was killed, as well as a Home Build-It Centre, and a few others that reference past deaths. "This is the most ironic train of all time!" I exclaimed, and a few people who heard me laughed.

This movie was terrible. I spent most of it laughing at how bad it was, but it was the best of the three. The others were somehow worse. Maybe because this one embraced its cheese and crap factor while the others tried to be legitimate films. I don't know.

I would not recommend this film unless you feel like wasting a few bucks to see it at the cheap theatre with a group of idiot friends with the sole intention of mocking it at every turn. It is not a very good horror movie, but it is one of the best comedies I have seen in a long time. It was funnier than *The Pink Panther*, let me tell you. If you want to see a real scary movie, rent *Glitter*. Try and sleep after watching that thing. Scary.

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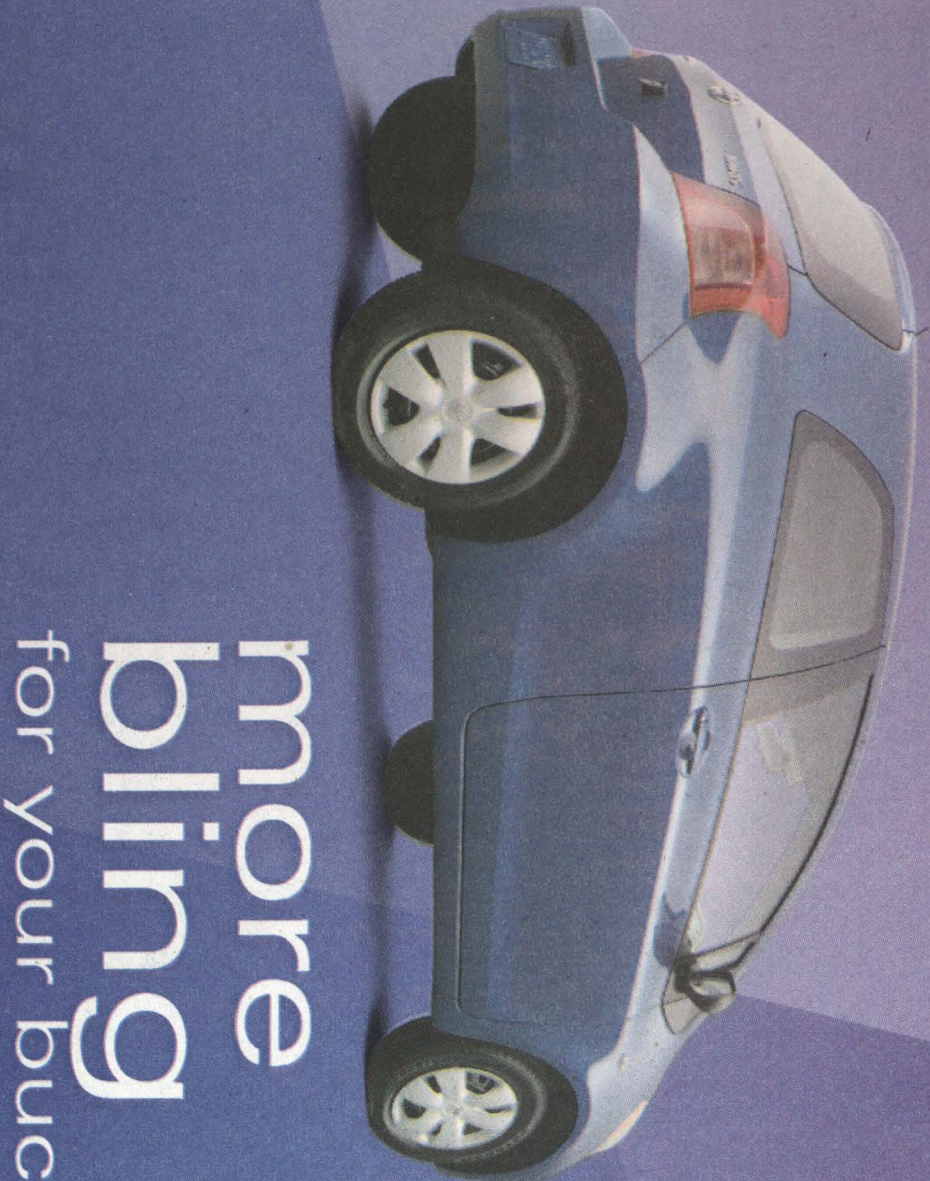




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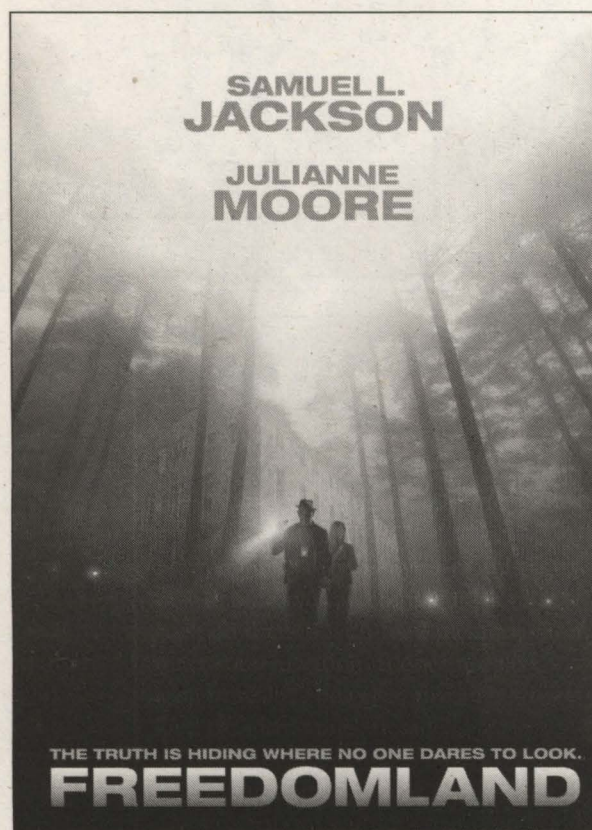
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# Freedomland

Vince Yim, OP Contributor



Brenda Martin (Julianne Moore) wanders the streets of Gannon, New Jersey, her hands bloodied from a violent incident, until she finds a hospital. Hysterical, she recounts the story to Detective Lorenzo Council (Samuel L. Jackson): While driving through the low-income housing projects of Gannon, she is carjacked at gunpoint while her son is still in the backseat, and the culprit is an African-American male. As they seek the missing child, the projects are placed under lockdown. But as the truth emerges, a powder keg of racial intolerance threatens to explode in the heart of the projects, and the fuse gets shorter with every hour that the child is missing.

*Freedomland*, allegedly based on true events, at least according to the trailer, garners inevitable comparisons to the infamous Susan Smith case, in which the mother alleged that an African American male stole her car while her children were inside. A nation's sympathy becomes scorn when they learn the events were fabricated and that Susan Smith was in fact responsible. Here, the filmmakers choose more to focus on the racial tension.

As the all-black housing projects are under constant surveillance by white cops, you can actually feel the tension building through the course of the film. The violent showdown between residents and law enforcement

is inevitable and becomes the film's highlight moment.

This is important, because once you see the film's parallels to real life events, the promised "shocking ending" (if you are seeing the television ads) isn't really that shocking. As a result, the main plot takes a backseat to the characters and the performances, which are very strong in this film.

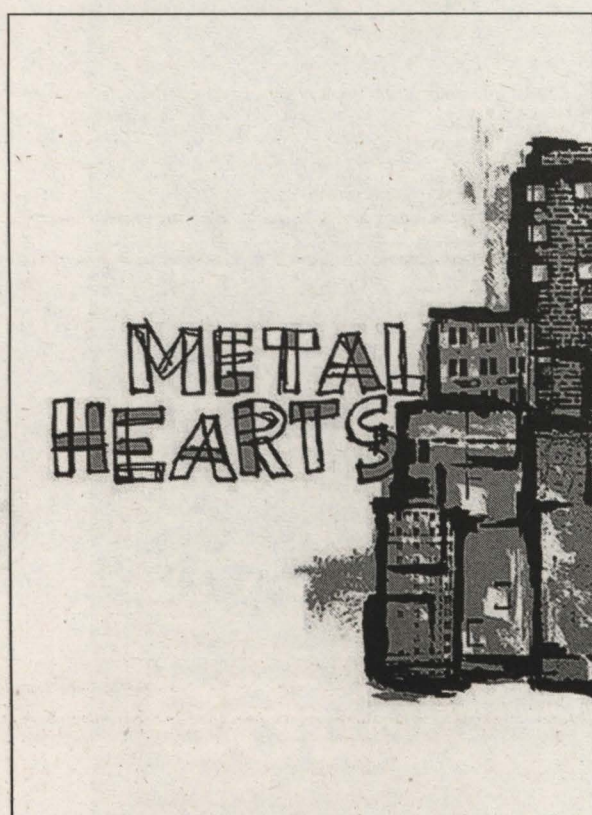
The current king-of-cool Samuel L. Jackson plays the same character that we expect of him (loud-mouthed black guy with unusual beliefs or philosophies, according to the Internet Movie Database), although he makes the character his own. Even on bad movies, he has yet to turn in a bad performance. Julianne Moore sheds the glamour of her previous roles to become the hysterical mother here, although her performance gets a little bit grating at times. However, this may be to minimize any sort of sympathy the audience may have towards her character.

Sadly, that's all there is. Some of it tends to just draaaaaag on, especially since you pretty much already know where it is all going. I found that some scenes were completely pointless as the ending had already been predetermined.

In terms of entertainment value, one could do a lot worse with \$11. Wait for the rental, folks.

# Metal Hearts, Test Icicles, and Arctic Monkeys

Luke Simcoe, OP Contributor



## Metal Hearts—Socialize

*Socialize* is the sophomore release from Baltimore's Metal Hearts. The EP is full of loose arrangements of sparse guitars, hushed vocals, synths, samples, and drum beats that bring to mind thoughts of The Postal Service.

The album starts with the title track, a charming song that somehow manages to build in intensity without really building in intensity. However, with the possible exception of "Gentleman's Spell," a more energetic

offering placed a third of the way into the album's 43 minutes, *Socialize* falls flat after its opener. It's not as if the rest of the songs don't measure up to the title track, it's just that the album begins to run together and become, for a lack of a better word, boring.

*Socialize* is a suitable listen if you want to chill out before bed, but try listening to it at any other time and I bet it'll have you nodding off, and not in that good Sigur Ros kind of way. Don't write Metal Hearts off just yet though, they're still young (the duo's combined age is still under 40), and they're already working on their next album, which they claim will be "far more expressive and evolved than *Socialize*." Here's hoping...

## Test Icicles—For Screening Purposes Only

Although the album's been out since last October, Test Icicles have only recently garnered attention (outside of Myspace...) on this side of the Atlantic. They've been getting numerous record reviews in publications just like the one you're currently holding, and they've even got a small North American tour coming up in the spring.

Zulu Records described *For Screening Purposes Only* as Les Savy Fav meets The Blood Brothers, with a bit of Bloc Party thrown in. Now, as much as I hate to bite another review, I have a fondness for *blank* meets *blank* descriptions and this one's pretty apt. However, what sets Test Icicles apart from these comparisons is their sheer youthful exuberance (in case you couldn't tell by their name). The band isn't concerned about their lack of a touring drummer (they just hook up an iPod with the drum beats in it to the amps), have a hilarious-yet-edgy song dedicated to sharks ("Danger at the Bay, Stay Out of the Way"), and haphazardly trade vocal and guitar duty equally amongst the three members.

Somehow, this exuberance and disregard for profes-

sionalism result in a debut album that mixes acid-throated vocals, drum beats, garage rock, and even the occasional foray into techno ("Catch It") into a catchy and refreshing brew.

## Arctic Monkeys—Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not

I'm not sure this album really needs a review, what with all the buzz and hype (*NME* took time off from felling Franz Ferdinand to give the album a 10/10, and Oasis has bagged the band for the coveted opening spot on its upcoming North American tour), but I couldn't think of another recently released record to review.

Usually, all the media attention and too-good reviews turn me off of a band (I'm still wary of The Arcade Fire), but I actually enjoy this album. It's kind of The Clash meet The Streets thing for me.

Guitarist/Vocalist Alex Turner spins lyrical narratives of growing up in the British music and bar scene a la Mike Skinner of The Streets, while the band's sound makes me think of what Joe Strummer and the boys might have done had they grown up in England during the 90s as opposed to in the squalor of the 70s.

Still, this is the same straight-off-the-floor rock sound that's been coming out of Britain and North America since the "The" band explosion, and I predict not much more than the standard 15 minutes for Arctic Monkeys. Nevertheless, "I Bet You Look Good On The Dancefloor" has become my new getting ready for the bar song and "Fake Tales of San Francisco," a sarcastic and biting critique of pretentious scenester bands and their followers ("love's not only blind but deaf" eventually segues into a chorus of "get off the bandwagon and put down the handbook") seems to ring just as true in Vancouver as it would in London.



# Word On The Street

## OLYMPIC PREDICTIONS

Q: "How many medals do you think Canada is going to leave Torino with?"



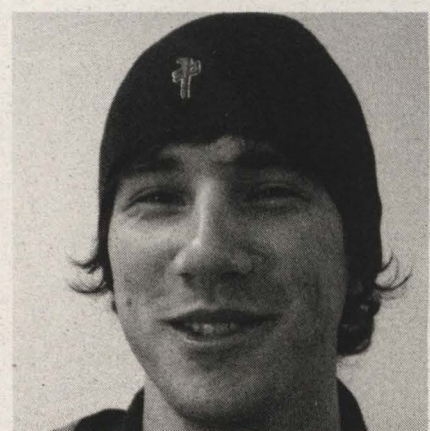
A: "16, we say 16!"

— Paula and Jennifer



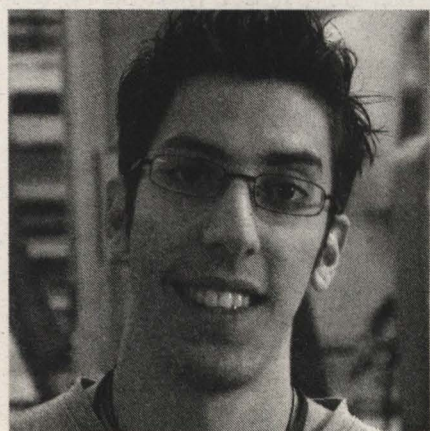
A: "We should have 20 by the end of the games —50 if you count all of the hockey players individually."

— Kal, Dorothy, and Nicole



A: "I am such a bad person to ask. 17."

— Nathan



A: "6."

Q: "6? We've already earned more than 6."

A: " Alright, 17 sounds good."

— Jason



## Stone Cold Scandals

### The controversial and nefarious of the Winter Olympics

Kevin Welsh, OP Features Editor

Ah, the Olympics. Once again, it's time for coach potatoes and armchair quarterbacks across the nation to surround themselves with snacks and beverages and camp out on the couch for two weeks while cheering on Canada in their quad-annual mission to underachieve and disappoint.

The Olympics, on paper at least, are all about sportsmanship, competition, and global spirit. In reality, they are rife with politics, money, and, of course, controversy. True to form, the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin have already produced its fair share of controversy, from the ho-hum world of illegal substances to an international superstar who may or may not be involved in a certain New Jersey gambling ring. The Turin games haven't wasted any time, and, if history has anything to say about it, probably will produce a few more eyebrow raising stories before the flame is extinguished.

I feel comfortable confidently predicting this because, if history has taught us anything, it's that someone will disgrace themselves or simply screw up big over the course of any Olympic games. While the winter version may take a back seat to the Summer Olympics in the areas of pageantry, accessibility, popularity, and television ratings, the Winter Olympics has proven that it can stand toe to toe with its big brother when it comes to controversy. Let's have a look at some of the big ones and some of the bizarre ones.

#### 1948, St. Mortiz, Switzerland

The 1948 games, the first in years due to World War II, was plagued with controversy. First up, Lebanon, the only Arab country scheduled to compete at the games, threatened to boycott if an all-Jewish team from Palestine was permitted to compete under a Zionist flag. In the end, Palestine didn't compete, citing a lack of training time for the reason. Politics reared its ugly head again when other countries, including Norway and Yugoslavia, protested to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that former Nazis were representing Austria at the games. While Switzerland did refuse to grant a visa to one Austrian, the other Austrians were permitted to compete.

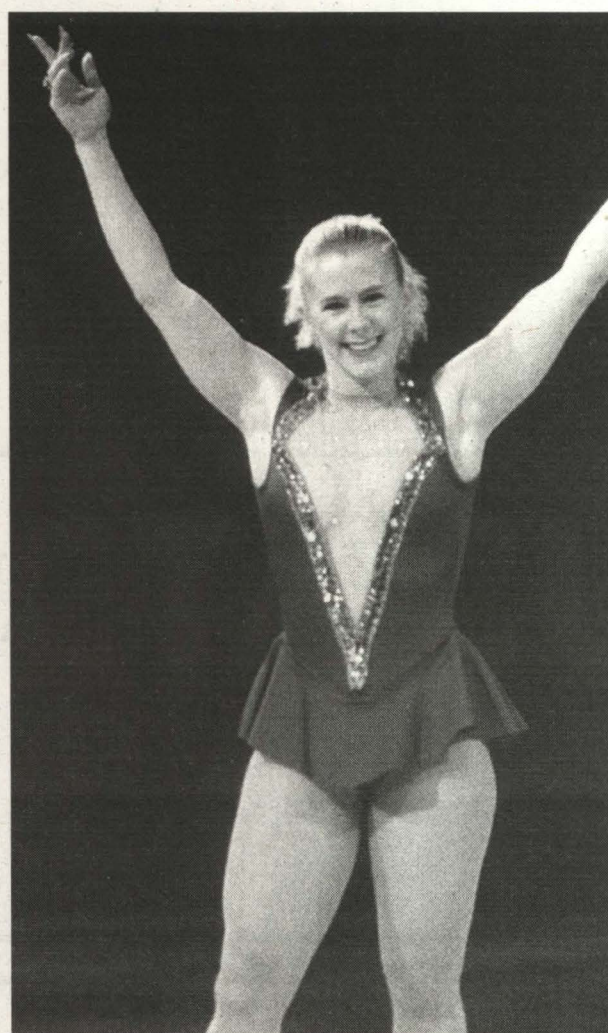
Also at St. Mortiz, the night before the bobsled competition some unidentified vandals loosened the nuts holding together the steering mechanism of the American bobsled. While those responsible were never caught, the treachery was discovered before the Americans hit the track.

Americans were involved in even more controversy, though, when two separate ice hockey teams, one sanctioned by the American Hockey Association (AHA) and one by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), showed up at the opening ceremonies claiming to be the official team. The IOC ruled both teams ineligible, but the Swiss Olympic Committee overruled that decision and chose the AHA team to compete but also decided that the AAU squad would march in the opening ceremonies while the AHA team had to watch from the stands. The United States Olympic Committee threatened to pull its entire team from the games in protest, but the Swiss called their bluff, the games went on, the American team participated, and the AHA team placed fourth.

#### 1962, Innsbruck, Austria

Two Germans were stripped of their medals after it was discovered that they were professional athletes and not amateurs. As well, the Canadian ice hockey team finished

in a three-way tie for second place, yet was denied a medal due to unclear tie-breaking procedures. Finally, in a sign of things to come, the figure skating finals were plagued with accusations of biased judging.



#### 1968, Grenoble, France

For the first time, East Germany sent a team to the winter games. They started out strong with their women's luge team dominating the early stages of its competition. Shortly after, though, they were disqualified when it was discovered they were heating the runners of their sled to gain an advantage.

As well, IOC President Avery Brundage stepped up his passionate crusade against commercialism in the Olympics, and fingered French skier Jean-Claude Kelly as one of the biggest culprits. When Kelly continued to dominate the slopes, Brundage threatened to remove alpine skiing from the list of events. At the same time, though, Brundage invited South Africa to compete at the games, despite apartheid. South Africa would not compete until 1992.

#### 1988, Calgary, Canada

A ticket scandal erupted when it was discovered that James "Jiminy Tickets" McGregor was charging Americans face value in US dollars for Canadian tickets, then pocketing the difference between the US dollars and the lower-valued Canadian dollars. McGregor was charged with fraud, theft, and mischief.

#### 1994, Lillehammer, Norway

These games were home to the scandal that all other

scandals will be compared to for some time to come. Afraid that she may lose her place on the American figure skating team to Nancy Kerrigan, Tonya Harding allegedly played a part in commissioning an attack on Kerrigan. During Olympic qualifying, Kerrigan was hit on her knee with a blunt object by a masked assailant. The scandal quickly grew to tabloid status, and the Lillehammer games greatly benefited from this when both skaters ended up qualifying and competing for USA. The figure skating finals drew the largest audience in Olympic history, as well as one of the largest American television audiences of all time. Ultimately, Kerrigan would earn a silver medal while Harding finished out of the medals.

#### 2002, Salt Lake City, USA

Proving they are the kings of creating controversy, American organizers of the 2002 games outdid every other organizing committee when scandal struck in 1998, a healthy four years before the games took place. Allegations were made that IOC members had been bribed by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) for their votes during the bidding process for the games. The scandal brought in question the legitimacy of the bidding process of all previous games. After the dust settled, the leaders of the SLOC, along with 10 members of the IOC, were forced to resign.

More scandals struck the Salt Lake City games, though these ones at least had the good taste to wait until the games were actually underway. A doping scandal tainted cross-country skiing while an umpire's decision in a short-track speed skating event pissed off the entire nation of South Korea.

The big one, however, became known as "Skate Gate." A judging conspiracy of massive proportions was uncovered when the Canadian pair of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, who skated an apparently flawless program, finished second to the Russian duo who made some obvious mistakes during their program. Many felt the Canadians were blatantly robbed, and French judge Marie-Reine LeGougne was suspended shortly after the decision after admitting to succumbing to pressure to vote for the Russians. An investigation quickly uncovered widespread conspiracy and corruption that led to an entirely new judging system for future international figure skating events. In the end, while the Russian skaters were allowed to keep their gold medals, Sale and Pelletier were issued duplicate gold medals and named co-winners of the competition.







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# Rope Bondage has Students Tied Up in Knots

Workshop teaches "safe, sane, and consensual" practices to beginners looking to improve their skills

Carolynne Burkholder, The Ubysey (University of British Columbia)



VANCOUVER (CUP)—Lisa has been attending bondage and kink events in Vancouver for four years. "Being tied up has always been a fantasy," she explained at "Bond with Friends: You've got the hands, we've got the rope," an event organized by Kink Vancouver: The Next Generation held at UBC last week.

Lisa said she went to the workshop as a favour to her roommate, although she already knew everything that was taught. Around 300 people actively participate in the Vancouver bondage scene, attending events and workshops, and many more enjoy bondage in private.

After the Kink event—jointly supported by UBC Pride and BIO Event Productions—hosted last week, that number might increase.

Inside the brightly lit classroom where the workshop took place, 30 students, surrounded by plenty of rope, listened and learned about the little-known world of bondage. Defined simply as a "sexual practice that involves physically restraining one of the partners," bondage has gained notoriety in recent years through portrayals in films such as *Pulp Fiction* and *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*.

Despite the taboo factor, bondage is a common fantasy. According to a US study, almost 50 percent of men find the idea of bondage erotic. The number is smaller for women—estimates put it around 30 percent.

"Bondage is often used to ensure and enhance feelings of helplessness or powerlessness or having power over someone," explained Tillie, another participant in the workshop. "And it looks good."

Tristan, the instructor, echoed Tillie's statement. "It's about power and beauty," he explained to the class. "Beauty in the fanciful designs and the sight of the bound human body. And power is either giving it up or seeing your partner writhing on the floor. You know which kind you are," he continued.

Tristan has a background in first aid and has worked as an instructor. After a brief, but heavily emphasized reiteration of the mantra—"safe, sane, and consensual" or "risk aware consensual kink"—he spent over half an hour discussing safety.

Bondage injuries can range from the mildly annoying rope burn to nerve damage that can last for months.

Bondage-related fatalities are rare, but can happen. Most fatalities occur when a person is playing alone, the majority by autoerotic asphyxiation.

Tristan stressed that keeping both partners safe is the most important part of bondage. The discomfort should be part of the experience of being bound and not harmful or damaging, he explained.

Before you even begin to tie, "take stock of how the person looks and feels," he continued. The colour, tone, and temperature of the skin will differ from person to person, but can be an indicator of damage to limbs.

"Keep the rope away from the throat," said Tristan, as the most important rule when beginning to tie someone up. "Sides not front," became another mantra for the evening.

Positional asphyxia, another hazard, happens when being hog-tied—your lungs are compressed with no room to expand. This is rare, but potentially fatal.

Circulation problems are much more common. "You have to be careful where you place your knots," said Tristan. Apart from the neck, bondage enthusiasts must be careful not to compress the femoral artery—running from your leg through to your groin—which can be fatal.

As well, your wrists can suffer nerve damage that can last for months. This is "the most typical bondage related injury" according to Tristan. As a general rule "if you can see light [between skin and the rope] blood can get through."

Besides the rope, bondage tools are surprisingly utilitarian. Most were bought from fishing or hardware stores—not fetish shops. Tristan's tool kit includes scissors—"never cheap out on your safety scissors," he said—a one-sided knife with a blunt tip, and a Swedish fid, a tool used to work out knots.

And, of course, there is the rope. Although Tristan is partial to hemp rope—it smells good and is unlikely to burn your skin—he said you can "use pretty much anything you want." Thread, razor wire, and bungee cord are definitely out.

Over 90 percent of bondage uses the same two knots, even for the most intricate designs. The larks head, also known as the cow hitch, works as a hook—tying arm to arm, leg to arm, or leg to post. The reef knot, or the even easier granny knot, holds the rope in place.

The rest is practice.

Tristan demonstrated a simple wrist cuff and a more ornate body harness for the class before leaving participants to practice on each other. A few of the more experienced participants helped the novices with the knots.

The workshop was targeted at beginners looking to improve their skills in rope bondage. "I got some fun, easy, basic ties, and confidence. Now I can't wait to tie my friends up this weekend," said Tillie.

Brigitte, who also attended the workshop, agreed. "I got a few new techniques out of it, and some interesting information about the physiological and biological safety issues involved in playing with bondage," she said. "And I met some cool new people."

## Terminology:

**BDSM:** acronym for bondage/discipline, dominance/submission, sadism/masochism

**Bottom:** the "receiver" in bondage, usually the submissive, but not always

**Dominant:** person who enjoys controlling a submissive person

**Dungeon:** any space set aside for scene activities

**Dungeon monitor:** someone trained in BDSM safety who ensures safe and responsible play in the dungeon

**Hog-tie:** securing each wrist to the corresponding ankle behind the back

**Rigging:** the act of tying someone else primarily for artistic purposes

**Safeword:** a word or action for the bottom to indicate distress and a wish to abort

**Submissive:** person who enjoys submitting to the will of another

**Top:** the "giver" in bondage, usually the dominant, but not always

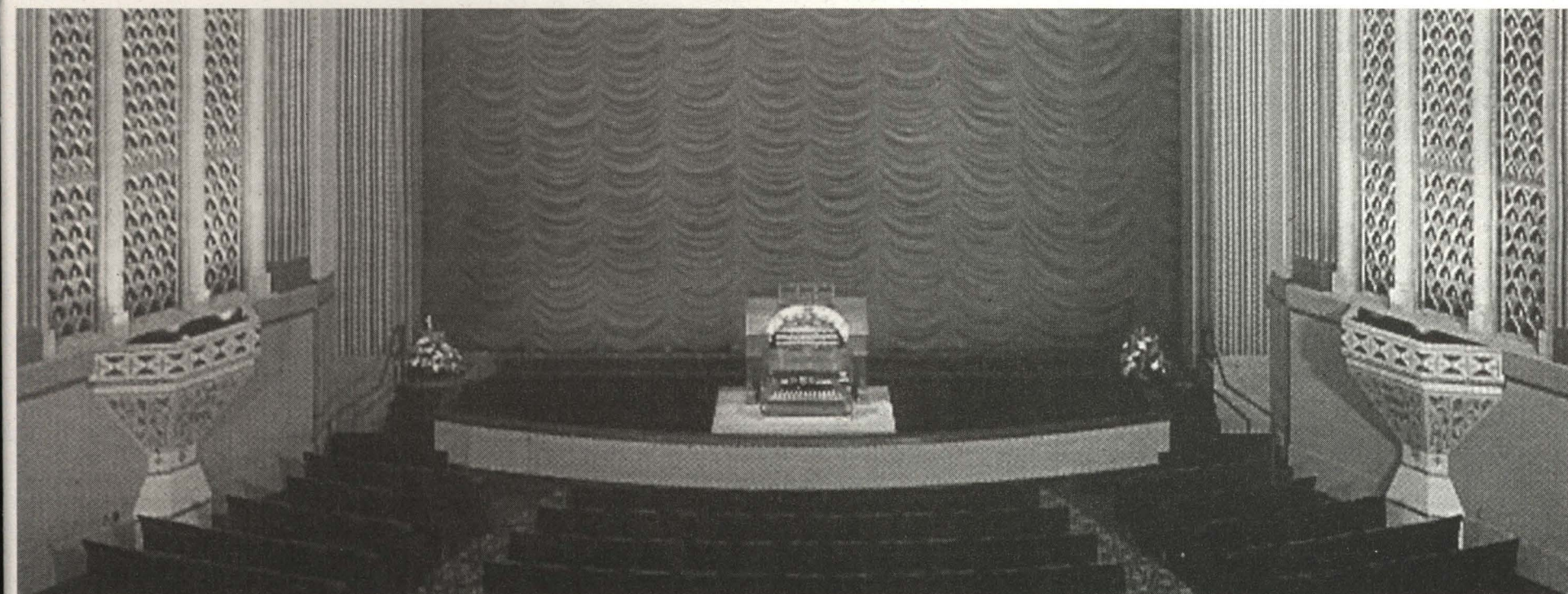
**Vincilagnia:** being sexually aroused by bondage





## In Conversation with Director Mason Fouks

By Brady Ehler, Coquitlam Rep.



This week, I caught up with Douglas College student Mason Fouks, a young director who is currently working on his third theatre production, *The Adventures of Super Captain Mr. Dude-Man*. Fouks' new play is a comedic superhero parody, filled with action, drama, crazy plot-twists, and more silliness than you can shake a stick at.

During the interview, I was able to get an idea of some of the obstacles the young director has to face, and what motivates him to succeed.

BE: So, who IS Mason Fouks?

MF: That's a big question...would you like me to re-count my childhood?

BE: No just the nutshell version.

MF: Well, when I was a kid, I had a friend who got leukemia (cancer of the blood). That's partly why I'm doing this show—and have done two others in the past. I grew up and now consider myself an actor, writer, and comedian.

BE: I see. What is the play about?

MF: What is it about thematically or plot-wise? Because its two different things....

BE: Both.

MF: Thematically, it's about confidence. While working on the script, it seemed to fit so nicely I couldn't believe I didn't think of it before. Not only that, confidence is an important issue that I struggled with to a degree and that everyone between 11 and 20 deals with, to one degree or another. Plot wise, it's about super heroes.

BE: You mentioned one of the reasons you are doing this play is because of your friend with leukemia. Did your friend's experience affect the script?

MF: I'd like to say yes, but honestly it didn't. His tragic experience is the reason for the script going into production, but not the story, characters, or plot.

BE: How so?

MF: I promised myself I would do something after he died. Actually, I promised myself I would help cure cancer after he died—as a scientist of some sort, but after I realized

I didn't like science (nor had the grades for it), I changed that promise to "do something." It's a little more vague and gives me more freedom to contribute in other ways.

BE: So the proceeds are going to charity?

MF: The Terry Fox Foundation.

BE: You appear quite young for a veteran director. How old are you and what are some of the challenges that you have faced putting on productions?

MF: I'm nineteen. There are lots of challenges. First, there's the perception of community theater. Apparently because we're not "professionals" or "getting paid" our work will automatically suck. People seem to think people like us have no idea what we're doing. We actually do. Not only that, but people quit. They quit often. They drop like flies at a Raid party...in fact, the other day one of my cast members called me up and said, "Mason, I quit." After I said, "What?!!!" she told me she's just joking and my coronary stopped. Then, there's the venues...yeah, we have to get *lots* of venues since we want to tour the show around locally. And there's promotion and dealing with the tech, props, costumes...and the actors! I mean, they're awesome, but sometimes they don't learn their lines and some add lib excessively. Can you ask another question now? My heart rate is increasing....

BE: Sorry. Being as how your budget is essentially nil, how are you able to secure rehearsal space and props? How do you entice actors to participate?

MF: We're rehearsing out of a high school I'm quite friendly with. Also, the actors are high school student actors who are eager to do anything. Plus, I know their teachers and asked them to push the auditions and make it sound fancy and great 'cause otherwise they'd figure it's a crappy no-budget play. Not only that, but we're officially connected to a cause. We even have an event number! As for everything else, it's kind of like *Men In Black*...it technically doesn't exist until we see it.

BE: Fair enough. Here is your space to plug. Go.

MF: "The Complete Adventures of Super Captain Mr.

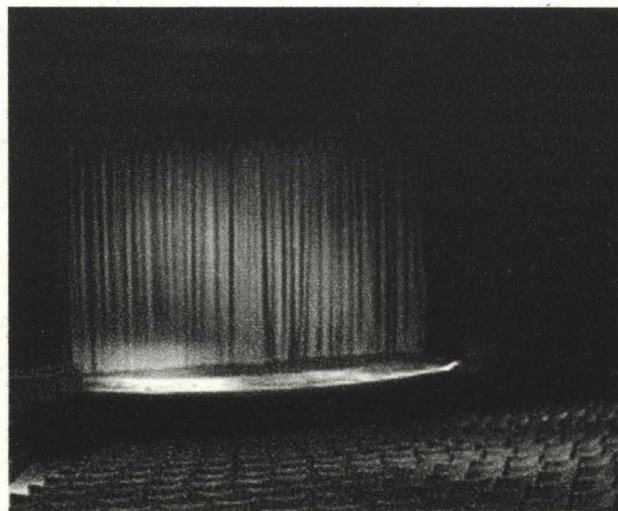
Dude-Man" is an original play about a nerd who discovers he has super powers. Since he doesn't have confidence, he sucks ass with spoon. Regardless, he is the only one who can save his best friend, the girl of his dreams (who carries his weakness around her neck), his friend's girlfriend, and his city. Even worse, he's up against his father's murderer, The Evil Kitty Captain Obvious!

Herbert's (the nerd) adventure spans two years and lots of craziness. Will he save the day? Who knows? Plus, it's filled with comic book (and comic book movie) references up the wazoo, so die-hard nerds will like it. It also has a good story and all the elements of the classical paradigm that everyone else likes.

BE: Sounds thrilling. One last question, with a name like "Fouks" did you catch a lot of flack in high school?

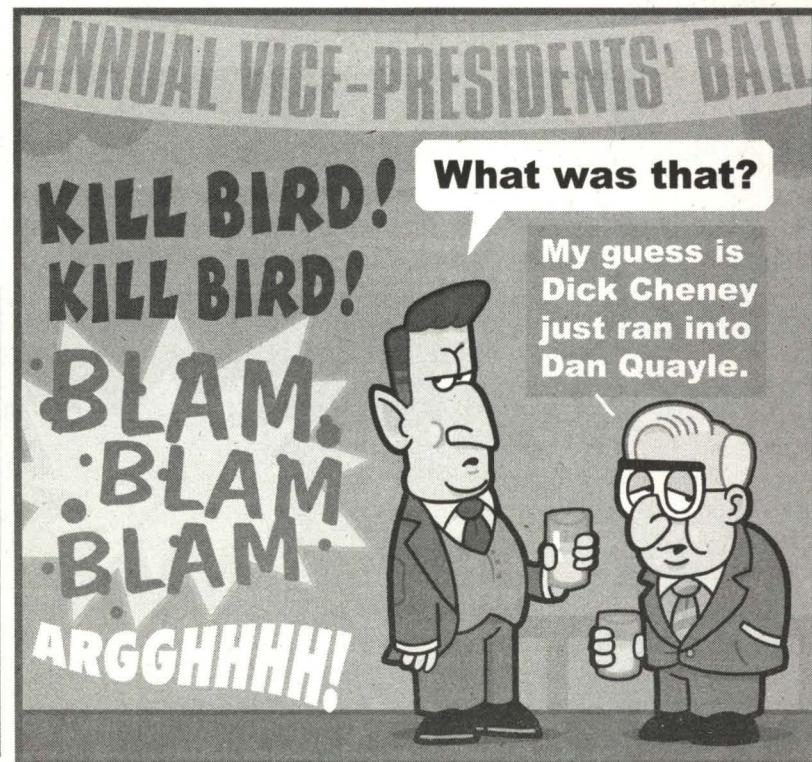
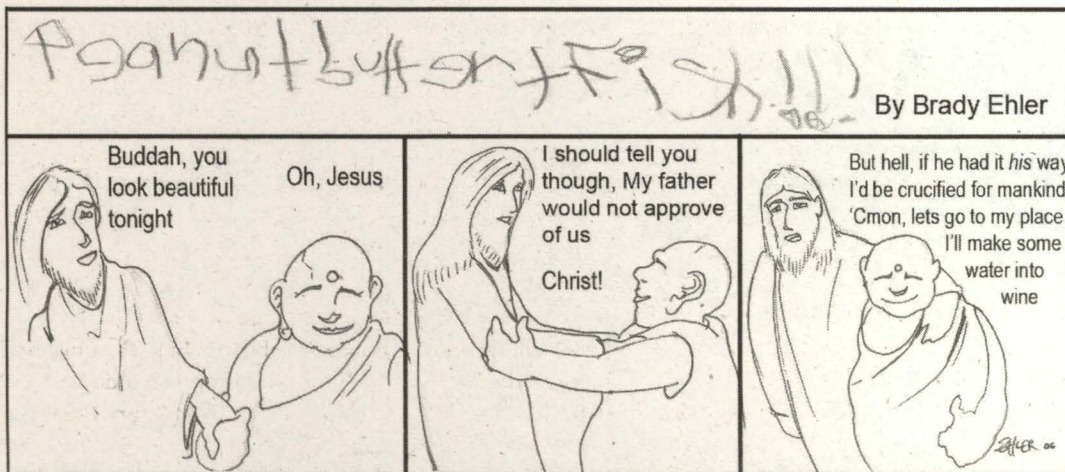
MF: Not as much as one would think... I mean, my initials make MF! Actually, lately, I've been getting people miss-pronouncing my name in ways that make me go, "Oh God, I wish."

For more information, e-mail Mason at [masonwilliam@hotmail.com](mailto:masonwilliam@hotmail.com), subject line: Dude-man info

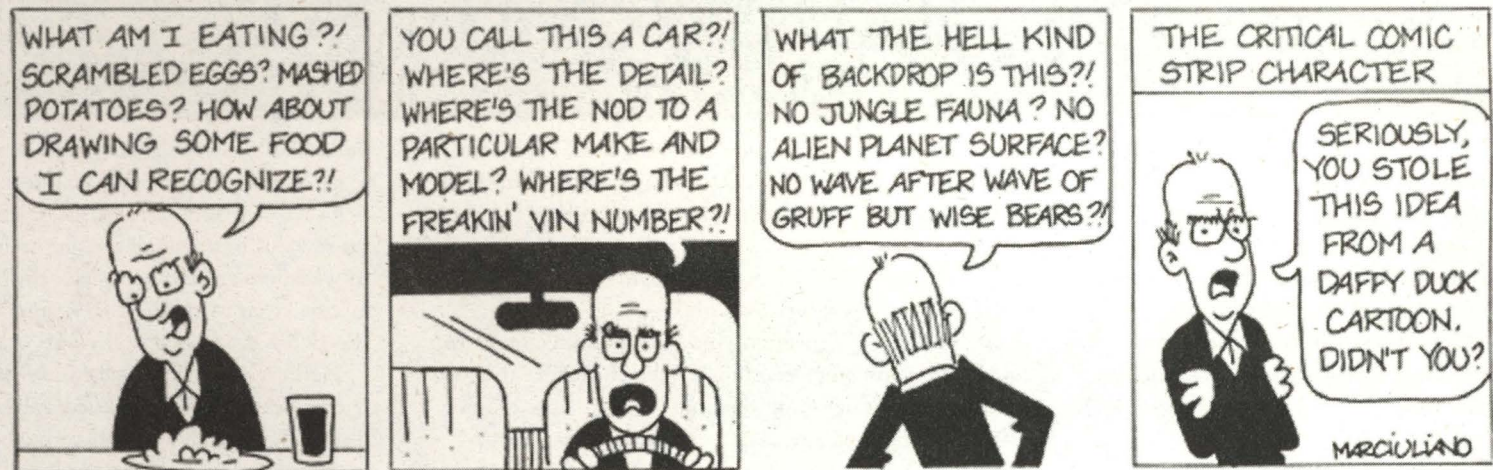




Cartoon by:  
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## MEDIUM LARGE by Francesco Marciuliano

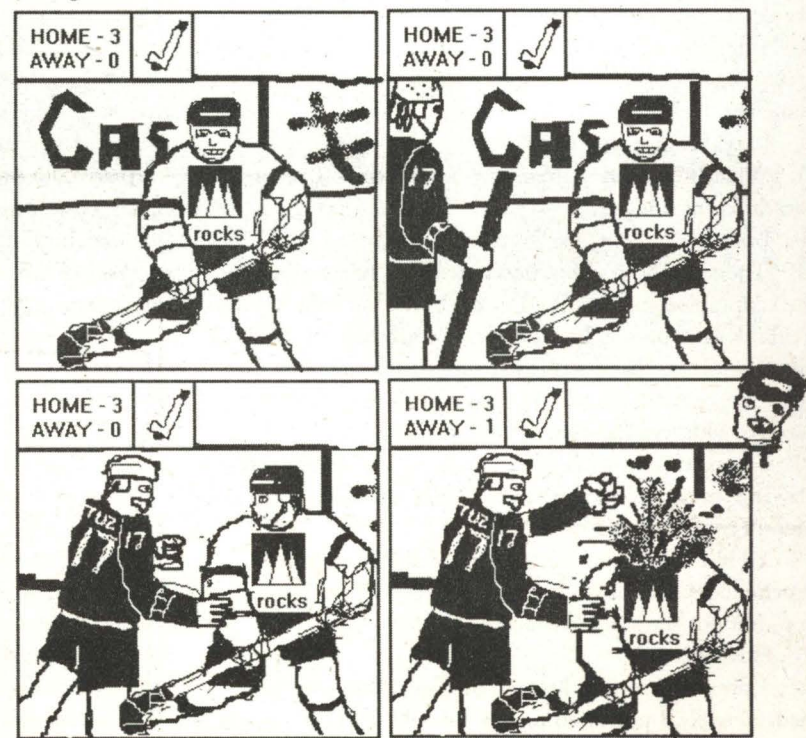


## white ninja

by Scott Bevan



## Major Studio Production by Vince Yim





## Mission Accomplished.

Brian McLennon, OP Sports Editor

The Douglas College badminton team completed the season undefeated by winning the third and final competition at Malaspina College. Douglas, who played without star rookie Charmagne Yeung, amassed a league-record 232 points. It was Douglas College's first Provincial title in four years.

After finishing last season in second place, the team went through many changes, with only Alice Lee returning from the 2005 edition. The team added depth on both the Men's and Women's teams, a move that seemed to pay dividends this season as every member of the team made a significant contribution to the team's success.

Leading the way at Malaspina was Alvin Lau, who caused a major upset by defeating the #1 seed and favourite to win the National championships, Kiran Bogavelli in what had to be the match of the season. After losing the first game 17-5, Alvin stepped up his game and went on to win the exciting match played with lots of emotion.

On the Women's side it was business as usual for Lyndsay Thomson. Thomson won her third tournament of the season and finished undefeated in Women's Singles. Aki Ito also put in her best performance of the season. Ito teamed up with Alice Lee to win the Women's Doubles over teammates Dawn Clark and Lyndsay Thomson, and also won the Mixed Doubles with recent "player of the week," Jan Veiel.

With the team's first goal accomplished, they now prepare for the provincial qualification tournament to be held next weekend in Kamloops. Lyndsay Thomson will look to continue her winning ways and qualify for the National Championships in the Women's Singles event. Alvin Lau will team up with Charmagne Yeung and will be favoured to win the Mixed Doubles event.

The National Championships will be held in Calgary, Alberta early March.



## Rugby Rundown

Dave Pearcey, OP Contributor

### 1st division men: United 43 – Surrey 15

United scored right off the opening kick-off and led throughout. Tries were scored by Brock Trimble (2), Brian McKatyn (2), Mike Collins, Greg Doucette and Tim Phillips. Phillips added 4 conversions.

### 2nd division men: United 20 – Surrey 20

United led by seven until a late converted try tied it for the Beavers. Tries for United came from Greg Cook (2) and Craig Braconnier.

### 3rd division men: United 28 – Chilliwack 41

### 1st division women: United 0 – Velox 15

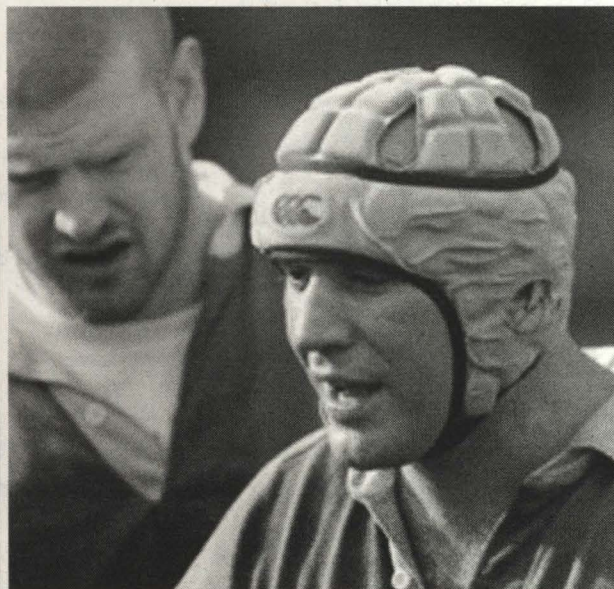
United lost on the Island to first place Velox. Velox was full value for the win, although the referee disallowed apparent tries by Alicia Noger and Liz Robbins.

### 2nd division women: United 31 – Comox 10

After shaking off the rust of a long layoff, United got tries from Tia Staller (2), Rikkilee Jones, Sarah McCallum, and Kelly Peterson. Three converts by Peterson rounded off the scoring.

Next week, the club has a full slate of home games. Men vs. Seattle at Queens park and women 1st division vs. University of Victoria at Hume park.

The Womens 2nd division plays UNBC on Sunday at Glen park in Coquitlam, while the Premier division squad travels to Bayside.



## The Way to the Promised Land

## McNeill named Athlete of the Week

Brian McLennon, OP Sports Editor

Douglas athletes continue to shine, as Royals Women's Basketball star Tara McNeill is the third Royals' recipient of a BCCAA Athlete of the Week this semester. The 5'8" junior forward, graduated from Handsworth Secondary School in North Vancouver, BC. McNeill is an extremely competitive athlete, adapts well within the game, and proves to be a difficult match up when she is hitting her jump shot.

McNeill currently leads the Royals in assists, steals, minutes played, and scoring productivity and is second in the team's scoring and rebounding.

In a pivotal game against Capilano on February 11, McNeill recorded a double-double, scoring 22 points and grabbing 13 rebounds, along with dropping 5 dimes (assists) and 3 picks (steals) in a 62-52 win. The victory lifted the Royals into top position of a four-way battle for a final play-off spot as the race for 4th-6th place was deadlocked between Douglas, Capilano, Kwantlen, and UNBC—each team with 16 points in the standings.

The Royals will be depending on their court leader this upcoming weekend as they head into the BCCAA Championships at Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, BC. For information on game times and dates, please visit the Royal Athletics website at: [www.douglas.bc.ca/csrw/athletics](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/csrw/athletics).



Photos by Jerald Walliser, South Paw Photography

## ROYALS

### UPCOMING GAMES

**Thursday, February 23**

Volleyball – BCCAA Provincial Championships  
(Abbotsford, BC)

Women's game (TBA) – Check Athletics website for details.



## Split Blues Soup Playoff pot continues

### to bubble.

Brian McLennon, OP Sports Editor.

In Friday night's 58-63 loss, a slow start saw the Royals' Women's Basketball team fall behind early by as many as 11 points. Capilano's Jaclyn Flaten drained three consecutive 3 pointers to shift the momentum to the Blues.

Costly turnovers and poor perimeter defense had the Royals constantly on their heels. Halfway through the first half, the Royals made a line up change and put in a defensive unit known throughout the week in practice as the "White" team who quickly turned the double digit lead into single digits. By the end of the half, the Blues only had a 2-point lead over the Royals.

The second half saw the lead change hands a couple of times as the intensity picked up at both ends for both teams. Unforced turnovers and 50 percent foul shooting by the Royals, coupled with two consecutive 3-point shots by Capilano's Kelsey Anderson, proved to be the difference as the Blues held on to defeat the Royals by five points.

Leading the Royals were Bridget O'Brien with 20 points and 5 rebounds, Tara McNeil with 15 points and 8 rebounds, and Gillian Weinrath with 8 rebounds.

In Saturday night's rematch, the Royals came out on fire. Falling back into a half-court man defense stifled Capilano's perimeter play. The Royals went ahead by as much as 20 points, but costly turnovers in the final five minutes of the half saw the Blues pull within 11 points.

The second half started just like the first with the Royals going up by as many as 17 points. Capilano made a final push to close within 9 but it wasn't enough as the Royals held on for the 62-52 victory. Leading the Royals in this game were Tara McNeil with a double double of 22 points and 13 rebounds. Tara also led the team with 5 assists and 3 steals. Bridget O'Brien also recorded a double double (14 points and 10 rebounds), while Gillian Weinrath added 15 points.

These games had BCCAA playoff implications, as there is a current fight between Capilano, Douglas, Kwantlen, and the University of Northern BC for the three remaining provincial berths. The 10-point victory means that the Royals have the tiebreak over the Blues for a provincial berth. The Royals also have the tiebreak over UNBC, and with Kwantlen and UNBC meeting this weekend, provincial berths and rankings are still up for grabs.

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Vancouver Support group for stutterers. Every alternate Friday, 7-9pm. Room 4310, New West campus. For more info, contact Mary Rose Labandelo: 604.526.1735

### Wanted

OPTions for Sexual Health (formerly Planned Parenthood) is looking for volunteers to assist on the Facts of Life Line, a toll-free, confidential, sexual health information and referral resource line. Call 604.731.4552 ext. 224, or visit [www.optionsforsexualhealth.com](http://www.optionsforsexualhealth.com).

AVID HALO 2 PLAYER. Need to have Halo2 game and XBOX Live. Please contact by email. Jamie Campbell. [JamieCampbell12345@hotmail.com](mailto:JamieCampbell12345@hotmail.com)

WATER POLO Players Wanted  
Students interested in participating in Intramural/Varsity Douglas Water Polo call: (604)777-6029(ext.# 3) or [email:sessionpolo@yahoo.ca](mailto:email:sessionpolo@yahoo.ca) for more information.

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## Last Call

Amanda Aikman, OP Columnist



Hey,

So, let's talk sleep. Sleep is a really great thing. I love it. I need it. Which is why, when I don't get it, I tend to go a little wiggy.

Lately, I've been having trouble in the sleeping department. Insomnia—what a bitch.

If you've ever been tortured by insomnia, you know what I'm talking about. The tossing, the turning, the desperate glances at your alarm clock with its sinister, taunting digits that seem to glow brighter than the very fires of hell. Sometimes, you get a few lines from a random song stuck in your head, which your traitorous brain insists on repeating until you seriously consider slamming your head many, many times against the nearest hard surface. Every little sound is blown hugely out of proportion (even for those of you who don't sleep next to someone with an unnaturally loud snoring habit), and every time you think you may be nearing the sleeping brink, these little sounds viciously pull you back to reality. Maybe, like me, you try to fool yourself into a relaxed state and convince yourself that everything's cool. "It'll be okay" you tell yourself, "if I fall asleep right now, I can still get four hours sleep. Four hours is plenty. I'll be totally fine. If I fall asleep RIGHT NOW!" Then, before you know it, there's only three hours, then two, then it's time to get up out of your bed prison and head off to your school or work prison.

Of course, occasional sleeplessness is perfectly normal, at least that's what the small print on the package of Sleep-Eze D tells me. Oh, Sleep-Eze D, my current drug of choice. I am truly addicted. I've taken one every night for the past three weeks. You're only supposed to take it for a couple of days, according to the good folks at the Sleep-Eze D factory, but how can they expect me to stop now? After sleeping through the night for three whole weeks—I'm hooked for life. You know where you can stuff your warm milk, counting sheep, and aromatherapy—I'm on the Sleep-Eze D train now, and I'm riding it right to slumberland every night. And no, before you ask, one of the side effects is not insanity and/or bad metaphor use.

Is it so wrong to be addicted to over-the-counter sleep aids? Does it mean I'm weak? Am I only fooling myself into thinking these things actually work, when really they are nothing more than pretty little blue placebos? Yes, definitely, and probably.

Of course, as far as drug addictions go, it's a pretty pathetic one. At less than five bucks for a pack of 24, I'll never have to hawk my mother's television set like Jared Leto did in *Requiem for a Dream*. And, with only a mild relaxing effect, my Sleep-Eze Ds will hardly endear me to the bad boys and skanks backstage at the local rock concertorium. But that's okay; I may not be cool, but I won't lose any sleep over it.



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